

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-14, 18 and 26-31 remain in this application. Claims 2, 4-14, 18 and 27-31 stand allowed. Applicant respectfully requests re-examination.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the office action that applicant's claim of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 (a)–(f) is acknowledged and that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Kubota Michitaka* (Pub. No. 11120308) in view of *Hill, Michael John* (EP 0856818 A2). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Kubota discloses a history information recording device 20 which has a first storage means 21, a second storage means 22, and an input coil 23. The first storage means of *Kubota* is a ROM for recording such information as product name, type, number and manufacturing date. The second storage means 22 is a flash memory, for storing such information as sales or repair data. The input coil 23 serves as an input into the first storage means 21 and the second storage means 22 from the outside through an electromagnetic wave.

Kubota does not disclose or teach an information recording medium having “stage storage areas, as many as the stages of the life cycle of the item, each of the stage storage areas including an information storage area readable by using a first encryption key, common to all stage storage areas, and an information storage area readable by using a second encryption key unique to a corresponding stage storage area.” Nor does *Kubota* show or teach “each of the stage storage areas storing an encryption key unique to a corresponding stage storage area.” Nor does

Kubota show or teach “stage identifiers, each stage identifier identifying a different one of the storage areas.”

That is because *Kubota* is not concerned with encrypting his information to get information out of the two *Kubota* storage areas. No encryption/decryption key is required.

The claimed invention on the other hand utilizes stage storage areas equal in number to the number of stages in the life cycle of the item from manufacture to disposal. Each stage storage area has two information storage areas, one which is readable only by a first encryption key that is common to all stage storage areas, and the other, which is readable only by using a second encryption key which is unique to the corresponding stage storage area.

The *Hill* reference is directed to the use of an address key to “descramble” an address for a memory element storing a data record. *Hill* does not fill the inadequacies of the *Kubota* teaching, as noted above.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that Claim 26 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 22, 2005.

By: Sharon Farnus

Signature

Dated: August 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.

[Signature]

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